



# Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative

Definitions  
Subcommittee

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# REMINDERS & AGENDA

# Meeting Reminders



THIS MEETING IS BEING  
RECORDED



PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN  
NOT SPEAKING



YOU MAY RAISE YOUR HAND TO  
SPEAK OR COMMENT IN THE  
CHAT



## **1. Our Charge**



## **2. Getting Started**



## **3. Our Approach**



## **4. Next Steps**

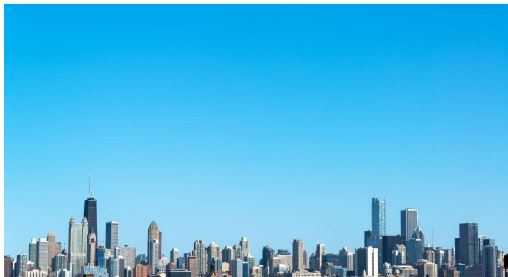


**GETTING READY**

# Shared Goals



To provide definitions for a common understanding of words and terms utilized in communication around low-income energy policy



To enhance and clarify understanding of defined words and terms.



In the defining of words and terms utilized in communication around low-income energy policy, broaden understanding of factors impacting low-income energy customers.

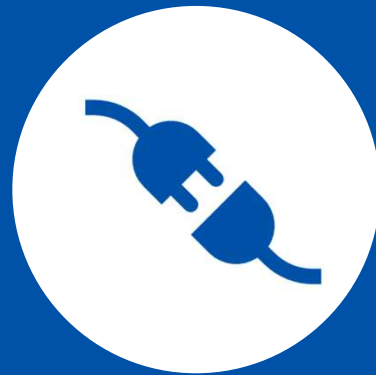
# Pledge to Position Ourselves for Progress

## **My stance toward others:**

- Give others the benefit of the doubt
- Listen to others with respect, empathy and trust
- Demonstrate cultural humility toward others
- Be an ally and provide support
- Make it safe for others to speak up

## **My stance toward myself:**

- Have the courage to show up and lean in
- If I am feeling offended, consider if and how to share
- Desire to understand and learn
- Engage in dialogue, not debate
- Ensure my voice is heard; it is important



OUR CHARGE



## >> Our Charge

### 01 Define

Define 'Equity' and related terms  
Per Case No. U-20836, pages 461-463.

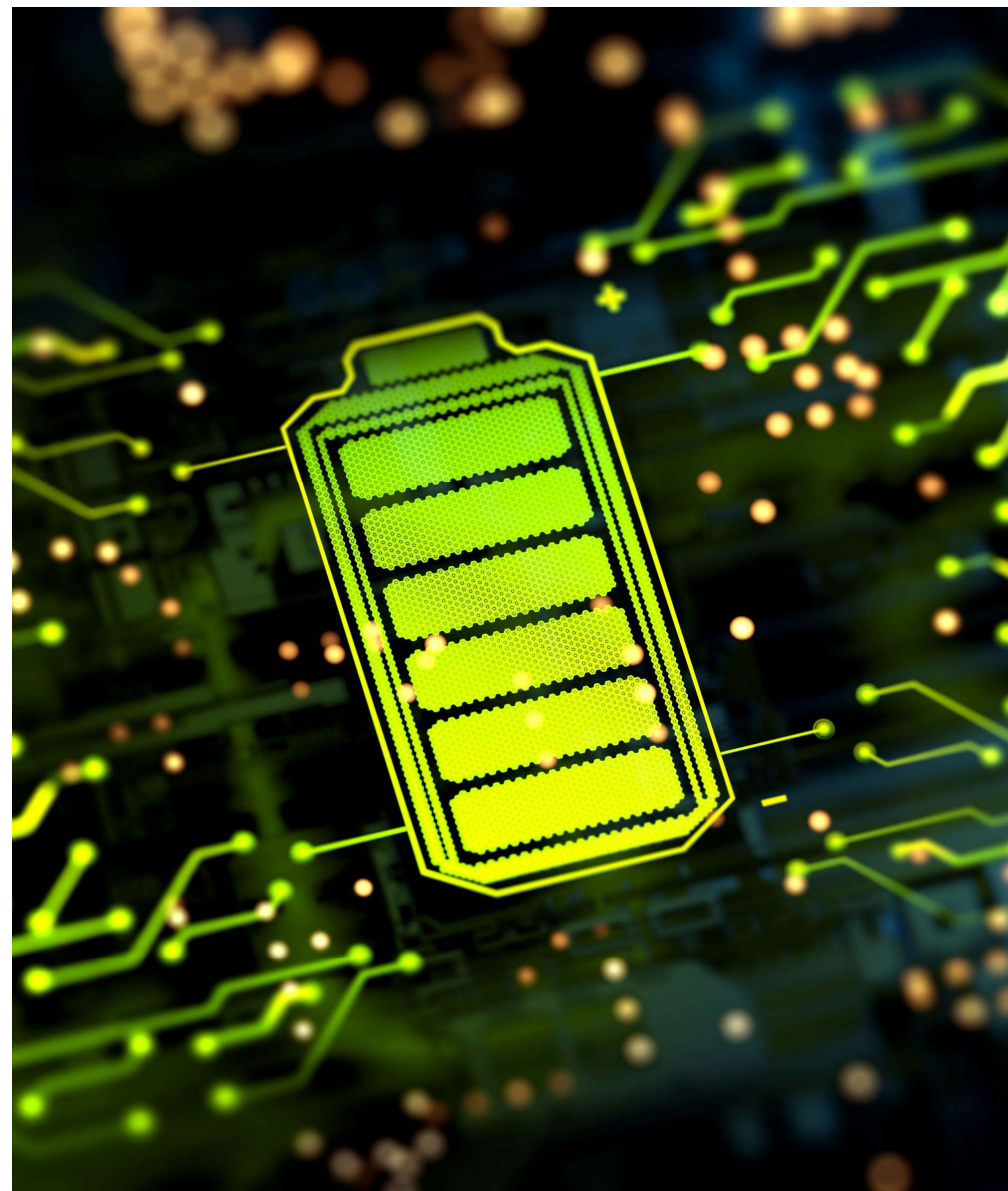
### 02 Consider

Take into consideration the proposed definition of energy affordability.

***A household has the resources to meet their home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses in a healthy, sustainable and energy efficient manner without compromising a household's ability to meet other basic needs***

### 03 Define

Define 'equity,' 'environmental justice,' 'energy justice,' and 'grid equity.'



## >> Our Previous Charge

### 01 Establish

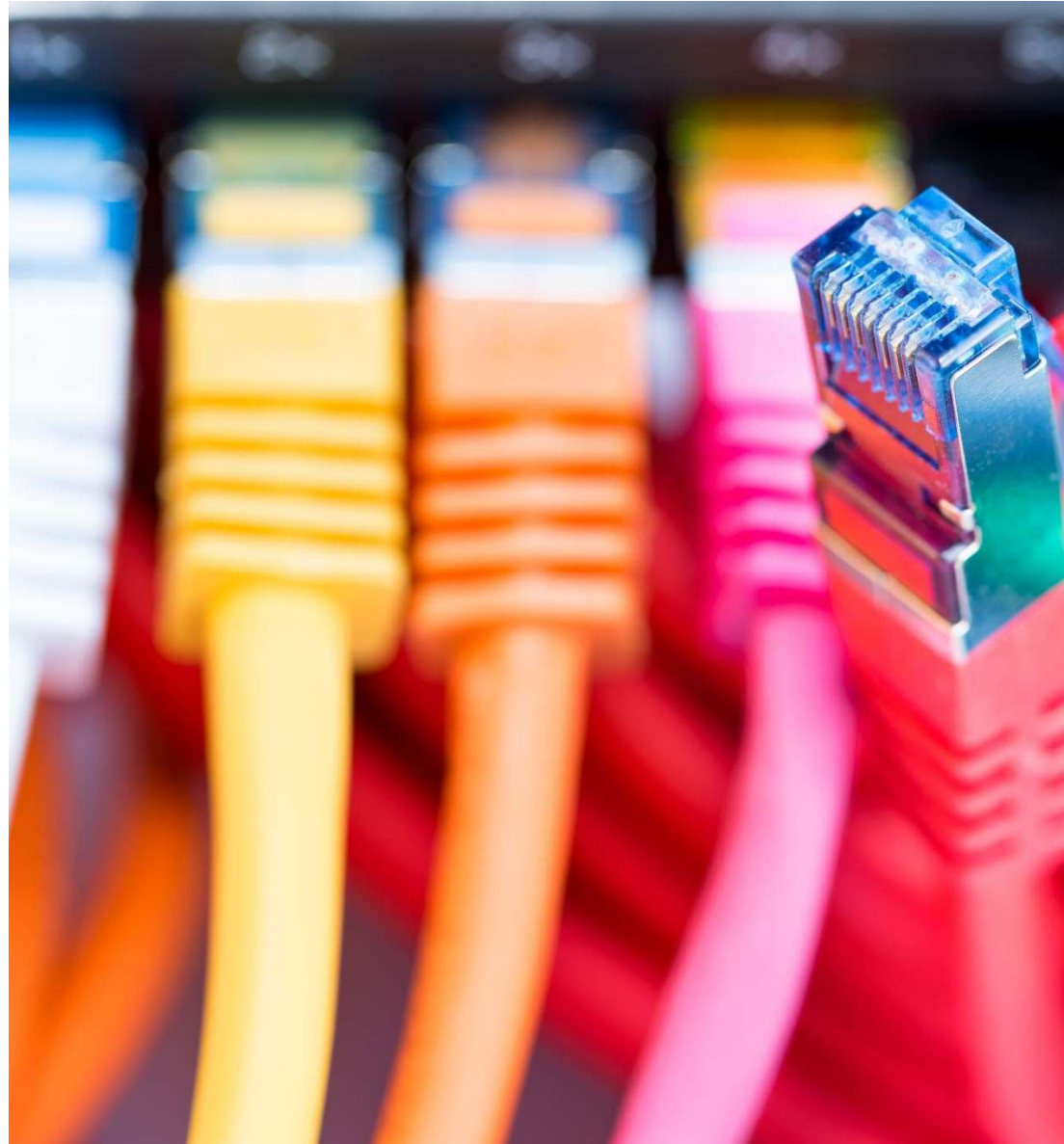
Establish common definition of energy security/self-sufficiency – begin with proposed definition by MEAP Workgroup Subcommittee 2.

### 02 Develop

Develop proposal for an energy affordability standard and how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment.

### 03 Draft

Draft suggested requirements for consistent energy affordability-related information for utilities to submit to appropriate dockets: rate cases, IRPs, EWR cases.





# GETTING STARTED

# State of Michigan Definitions

## Defined

- Self-sufficiency
  - MEAP Workgroup
- Energy Affordability
  - EAAC Definitions Subcommittee
- Environmental Justice
  - MI Dept. of EGLE
- Equitable Treatment
  - MI Dept. of EGLE

## Not Defined

- Energy Security
- Reliability
- Equity / Energy Equity
- Grid Equity
- Energy Justice



# APPROACH TO DEFINING TERMS



# Review and Consider Existing Definitions



# Procedural Justice

- Helping frontline communities understand complex regulatory processes; resources, partners and expertise to engage effectively
- Transparency and public data reporting; community led program design and evaluation
- On-going engagement; decision-making and co-creation; informal opportunities to participate; range of supports and compensation to participate

# Procedural Justice

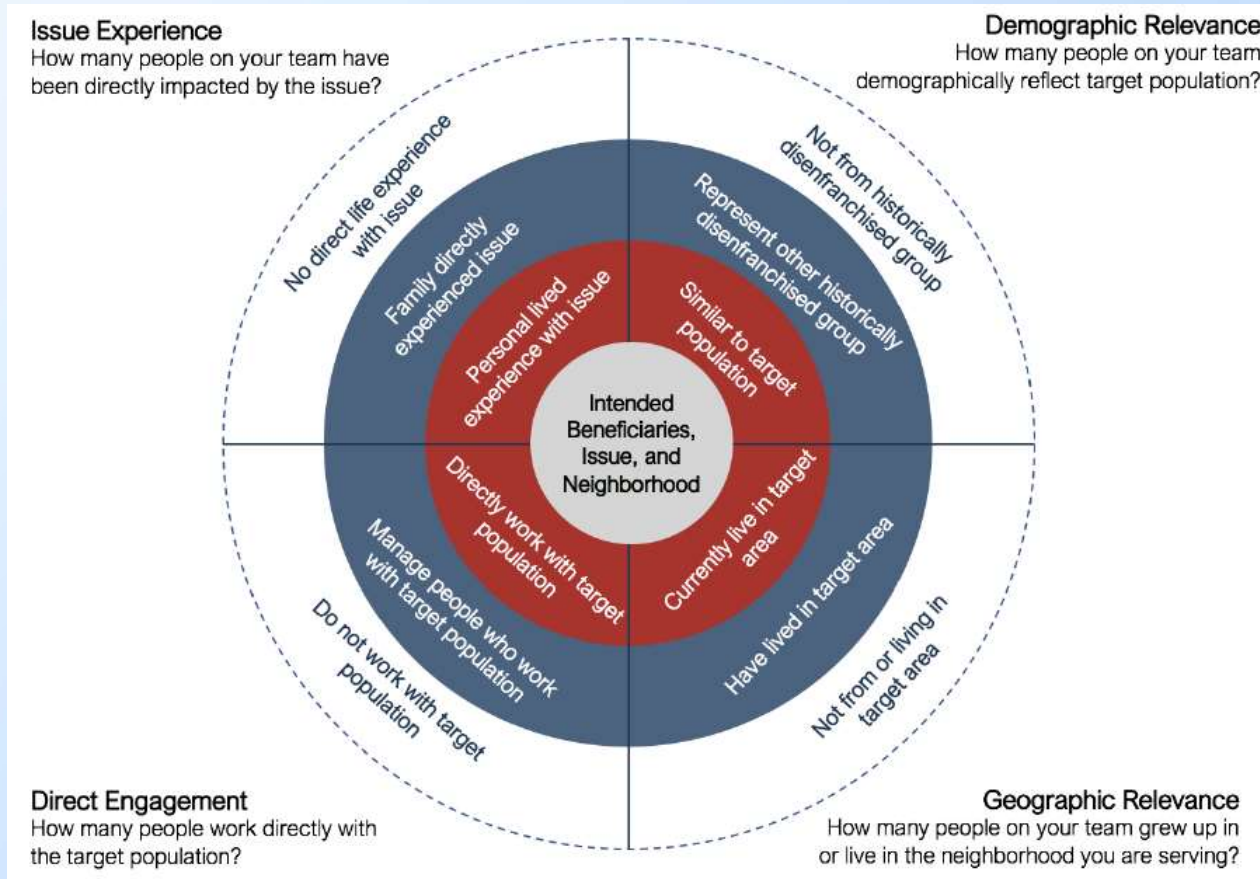
**Meaningful Involvement:** People have an opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their environment and/or health; decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected; People's concerns are considered in decision-making processes; and People can influence state agency decisions.

- MiEJScreen slide deck, EGLE

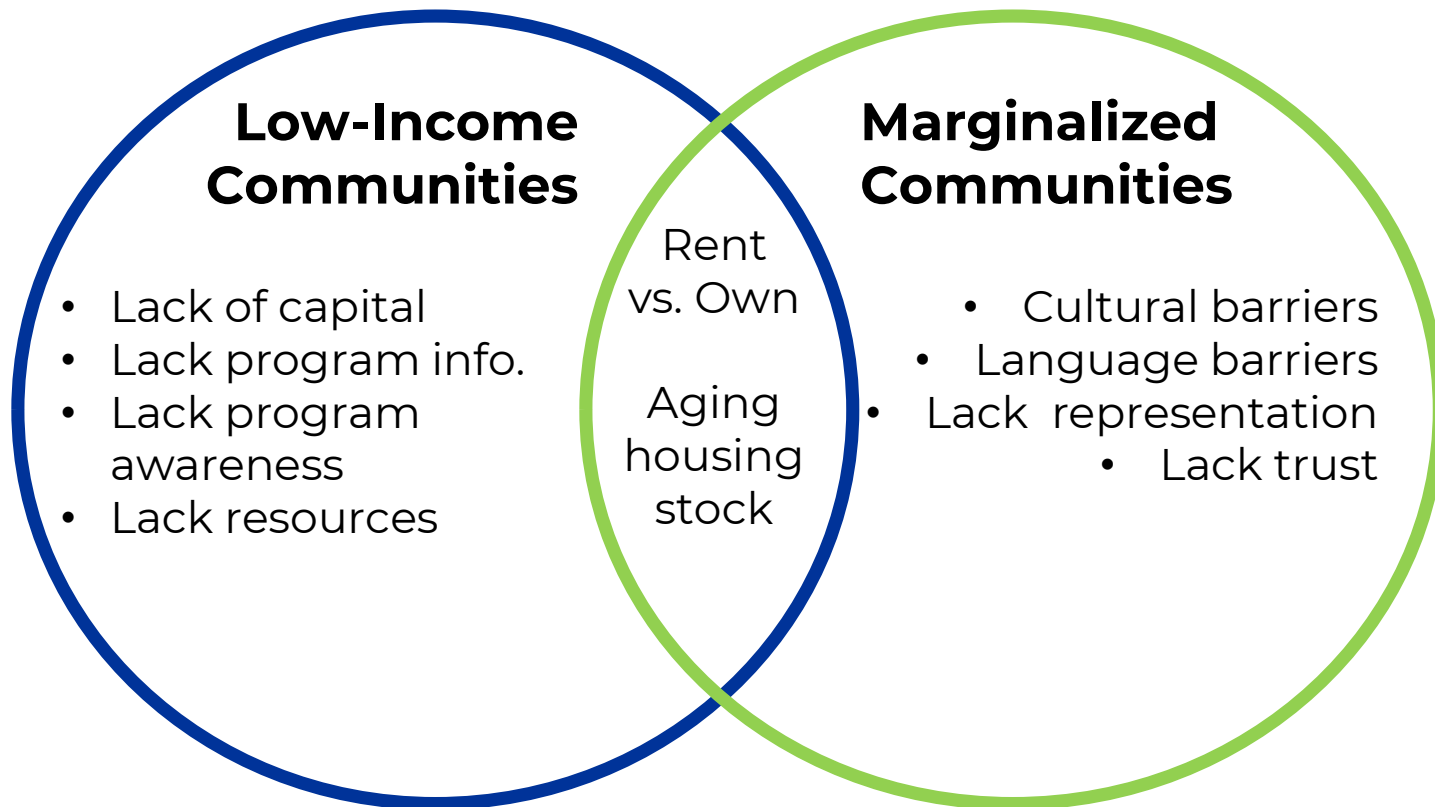


# Who is at Our Table?

What voice and power do you have in influencing planning, decision making, and implementation?



# Income ≠ Equity



# Social & Economic Status Descriptive Terms

Community Designation	Definition
Underserved communities	People who have a decreased level of service or access to energy system services.
Marginalized people	People excluded from participating in decision-making and those who lack access to basic economic, political, cultural, and social activities.
Vulnerable populations	Those who are economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, rural residents, those with inadequate education, and those with other socio-economic challenges.
Highly impacted communities	Communities living in geographic locations characterized by energy inequity and facing economic or historical barriers to participation in energy decisions and solutions.
Disadvantaged communities	Those who most suffer from economic, health, and environmental burdens.
Over-burdened populations	Minority, low-income, tribal or indigenous populations, or geographic locations that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks.
Frontline communities	Communities that experience the first and worst of air pollution resulting from energy systems.
Fenceline communities	Communities living in closest proximity to dangerous facilities (within one-tenth of a facility's vulnerability zone).
Environmental communities	Those who are most affected by environmental harms and risks.
Low- to moderate-income persons	People who make less than 80% of the area median income.

Review of Energy Equity Metrics, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, October 2021 (PNNL-32179)



## Connecting with Communities

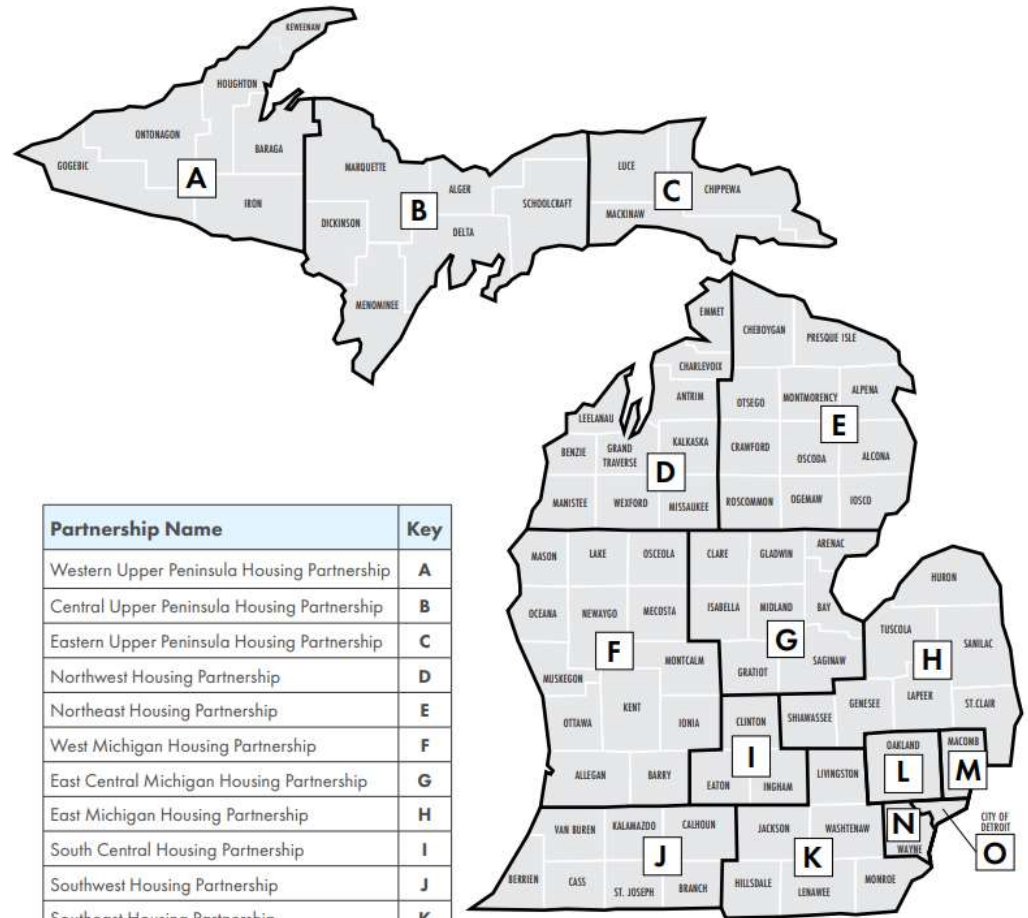
**Communities who  
have faced barriers to  
energy affordability  
and reliability**

- Historically marginalized communities
- Populations with inefficient housing stock
- Environmental communities
- Water impacted communities
- Tribal communities
- Those with language barriers
- Persons or households with a disability
- Households requiring medical equipment
- Families with young children
- Senior citizens



# Connecting with Communities

## Geographic Populations



Partnership Name	Key
Western Upper Peninsula Housing Partnership	A
Central Upper Peninsula Housing Partnership	B
Eastern Upper Peninsula Housing Partnership	C
Northwest Housing Partnership	D
Northeast Housing Partnership	E
West Michigan Housing Partnership	F
East Central Michigan Housing Partnership	G
East Michigan Housing Partnership	H
South Central Housing Partnership	I
Southwest Housing Partnership	J
Southeast Housing Partnership	K
Oakland Housing Partnership	L
Macomb Housing Partnership	M
Wayne Housing Partnership <i>including Hamtramck and Highland Park</i>	N
Detroit Housing Partnership	O

# Discussion

- Outreach methods for getting impacted folks to the table
- Strategies for giving impacted folks a voice in the process





**MOVING FORWARD**

# Next Steps

- May 17 – Review and confirm existing SOM definitions
  - Self-sufficiency
  - Energy Affordability
  - Equitable Treatment
  - Environmental Justice
- June 21 – Review definitions
  - Reliability
  - Energy Security

